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**THREE BALTIMORE MEN SENTENCED FOR IMPORTING COCAINE**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced today that three Baltimore residents were sentenced yesterday and today for conspiring to import more than four kilograms of cocaine from Aruba between November, 1998 and March, 2000.

John Malcolm Weems, age 38, owner of Buddy's Bail Bonds, was sentenced by Judge Marvin J. Garbis to serve a 98 month sentence and pay a \$20,000 fine after he pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to import cocaine and one count of money laundering. His brother, Anthony Weems, age 39, was sentenced to serve 130 months imprisonment. Both brothers had traveled to Aruba on separate occasions to purchase cocaine and supervise the packing of the cocaine on other individuals who acted as couriers to bring the drugs back in the United States. Dianne Davenport, age 51, was sentenced to 46 months incarceration for acting as one of the couriers for the drugs. All three defendants face an additional 5 years of supervised release after completion of their prison sentences.

The case was the result of a lengthy criminal investigation which began in 1999 after a

courier was intercepted at the Baltimore Washington Airport with 1.7 kilograms of cocaine in plastic baggies concealed under her clothes. The trio was indicted on the drug smuggling charges in September, 2001, after an investigation conducted by a joint task force of the U.S. Customs Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation and the United States Attorney's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Donna C. Sanger.